

AP[®] UNITED STATES HISTORY 2003 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 1

1. Analyze the responses of Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration to the problems of the Great Depression. How effective were these responses? How did they change the role of the federal government?

Use the following documents and your knowledge of the period 1929-1941 to construct your essay.

The 8-9 Essay:

- contains a well-developed thesis that addresses the effectiveness of the Roosevelt administration's responses to the problems of the Great Depression and how these responses changed the role of the federal government.
- presents a strong analysis of several responses to the problems of the Great Depression, evaluates their effectiveness and discusses changes in the role of the federal government.
- uses effectively a substantial number of documents.
- supports thesis with substantial and relevant outside information.
- may contain minor errors.
- is clearly organized and well written.

The 5-7 Essay:

- contains a thesis that identifies the effectiveness of the Roosevelt administration's responses to the problems of the Great Depression and provides some connection to the changing role of the federal government.
- states some responses to the problems of the Great Depression with limited analysis of their effectiveness, and with some connection to the changing role of the federal government.
- uses effectively some documents.
- supports thesis with some outside information.
- may have errors that do not seriously detract from the quality of the essay.
- shows acceptable organization and writing; language errors do not interfere with the comprehension of the essay.

The 2-4 Essay:

- contains a limited or undeveloped thesis.
- responds to the question in a general manner; simplistic treatment of responses to the problems of the Great Depression, and/or simplistic presentation on the changing role of the federal government.
- merely refers to, quotes, or briefly cites documents.
- contains little outside information or information that is inaccurate or irrelevant.
- may have major errors.
- may be poorly organized and/or written.

The 0-1 Essay:

- lacks a thesis or simply restates the question.
- demonstrates an incompetent or inappropriate response.
- has little or no understanding of the documents, or ignores them completely.
- has substantial factual errors.
- is poorly organized, and/or poorly written.

The – Essay:

- is completely off topic or blank.

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Question 1 (cont'd)

Document Information and Inferences

Document A: Meridel Lesueur, *New Masses*, January, 1932

Document Information:

- Many women are unemployed
- Some forms of assistance are available
- Fewer women than men seek assistance
- Probably as many women suffer from poverty as men

Document Inferences:

- Women seem invisible in the Great Depression
- Lack of attention to concerns of unemployed and poor women
- Pre-New Deal assistance to unemployed and poor was not sufficient
- Highlights urban unemployment

Document B: Letter to Senator Robert Wagner, March 7, 1934

Document Information:

- Fear of growing government power
- Current policies promote socialism and communism
- Current policies discourage business growth
- Government supports labor's demands
- Growing government involvement will be harmful to society

Document Inferences:

- Opposes New Deal policies and increased power of the federal government
- Favors less government interference in the economy
- The business community can respond to economic problems better than the government
- Opposes the National Recovery Administration

Document C: Cartoon, *The Evening Star* (Washington, D.C.), April 26, 1934

Document Information:

- New Deal represents change, but not revolutionary change
- Depicts development of the New Deal as a natural progression
- New Deal established an abundance of federal agencies

Document Inferences:

- Cartoonist supportive of New Deal
- The role of the federal government was expanded
- Roosevelt tries to appease New Deal critics
- A "brains trust" of academics played a leading role in the New Deal

Document D: William Lloyd Garrison, Jr., "The Hand of Improvidence,"
The Nation, November 14, 1934

Document Information:

- New Deal was both a set of ideas and diverse programs
- Some New Deal programs were at odds with others
- Significant increase in national debt to support New Deal programs
- Growth of the federal bureaucracy
- New Deal programs also reflected Keynesian economic theory

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Question 1 (cont'd)

Document Inferences:

- Critical of Keynesian theory of deficit spending
- Suggests that New Deal programs are unrealistic and impractical
- Some New Deal programs addressed economic problems and others slowed recovery
- The scope of the federal government greatly expanded

Document E: Poster for Social Security, 1935

Document Information:

- Federal government will provide monthly checks to those 65 and over
- Encourages people to apply for a Social Security number
- Details eligibility for Social Security
- Some workers are ineligible for Social Security

Document Inferences:

- Federal government assumes some responsibility for the economic well being of the citizens
- Ideas of Dr. Francis Townsend are embedded within Social Security program
- Initially, Social Security had limited effectiveness as it did not address the needs of some Americans

Document F: Charles Evans Hughes, majority opinion, *Schechter v. United States*, 1935

Document Information:

- Case examined the codes of hours and wages for workers
- The case refers to workers who are not employed in interstate commerce
- The court rules against the expansion of federal government power

Document Inferences:

- Court invalidates the National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA) because it gave the federal government powers of economic regulation that could not be justified under the interstate commerce clause
- Court rules that federal government could not regulate the economy in a significant way
- Decision was perceived as threatening to other New Deal economic measures

Document G: NBC radio broadcast, John L. Lewis, December 13, 1936

Document Information:

- Lack of acceptable working conditions leads to labor unrest
- Employers oppose collective bargaining
- Accuses large companies, such as US Steel and GM, of breaking existing labor laws
- Workers have the right to unionize and to bargain collectively

Document Inferences:

- Blames employers and companies for recent "widespread labor unrest"
- Supports the National Labor Relations Act (Wagner Act), a landmark legislation for organized labor
- Anticipates outbreak of sit down strikes

Document H: "The New Deal in Review" editorial in *The New Republic*, May 20, 1940

Document Information:

- New Deal changed the role of government
- New Deal created many new federal agencies and a more efficient executive branch
- Judicial branch revitalized by legislation and especially by new appointments

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Question 1 (cont'd)

Document Inferences:

- Strong support of New Deal and the expanded role of the federal government
- The country will be better in the future because of the New Deal
- Federal government responsive to popular will
- Conservative Supreme Court had opposed early New Deal programs
- Shift of Supreme Court to support New Deal

Document I: "The Roosevelt Record," editorial in *The Crisis*, November 1940

Document Information:

- Roosevelt administration attempted to include African Americans in New Deal programs
- Federal government continued segregation in some programs
- African Americans now view the federal government as more supportive

Document Inferences:

- The New Deal created employment opportunities for African Americans throughout the nation
- Long standing patterns of discrimination and segregation persisted
- African Americans voted for Roosevelt and the Democratic Party
- The Roosevelt administration was effective in garnering the support of African Americans despite its limitations

Document J: Chart, Unemployment of nonfarm workers by percentage and number

Document Information:

- Unemployment spiked in early 1920s, then peaked in 1933, and then rose again in 1937-38
- Numbers of unemployed (12.8 million) increased to nearly 40 percent by 1933
- Does not include farm workers in unemployment figures
- Significant decline in unemployment after 1938

Document Inferences:

- Shows relatively low unemployment during most of the 1920s
- "Roosevelt Recession" of 1937-38 caused by reduction in federal government spending
- World War II had greater impact on reducing unemployment than New Deal programs

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Question 1 (cont'd)

Commonly Seen Outside Information

relief, recovery, reform
First New Deal, Second New Deal
New Deal as continuation of Progressivism

Herbert Hoover
“rugged individualism”
Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC)

Banking, Business and Stock Market
“run on bank”
bank holiday
stock market crash
Black Tuesday (Oct. 29, 1929)
buy on margin
Smoot-Hawley Tariff
Emergency Banking Act
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)
Glass-Steagall Act
Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)

“brains trust”: Rexford Tugwell, Raymond Moley,
Adolf Berle

Harold Ickes
Harry Hopkins

Agricultural distress
Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA)
“Dust Bowl”
John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath*

Unemployment
Hoovervilles
Bonus March
“forgotten man”
Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA)
Civil Works Administration (CWA)
Public Works Administration (PWA)
Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)

“fireside chats”
“Hundred Days”
National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA)
National Recovery Administration (NRA)
codes
Section 7a
Blue Eagle, “We Do Our Part”

Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)
Rural Electrification Administration (REA)
Wagner National Labor Relations Act
National Labor Relations Board (NLRB)
“sit down strikes”
Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO)

Fair Labor Standards Act
“Roosevelt Recession” (1937-38)

laissez-faire
“deficit spending”
“prime the pump”
Huey Long
“Share Our Wealth”
Father Coughlin
Dr. Francis Townsend
Eleanor Roosevelt
Frances Perkins
Mary McLeod Bethune

Social Security
Aid to dependent children, disabled
Unemployment compensation
Workplace contributions
“welfare state”
Works Progress Administration (WPA)
Federal Writers’ Project
Federal Theatre Project
Federal Music Project
National Youth Administration (NYA)

“court packing” plan
Hugo L. Black

World War II
military preparedness

